

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The telephone call of 3/31/05 from the Examiner indicating that a new reference, Publication No. 2004/0005818 was going to be applied is appreciated. It was agreed that a second office action would be necessary.

The present amendment cancels all claims except 36, which is re-written in independent form, and does not make any other claim changes, and thus is enterable under 37 CFR § 1.116 and MPEP §714.13.

In the second office action, claims 33-36 and 38-40 were rejected under 35 U.S.C 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Judge et al (2004/0005818). However, it was helpfully indicated in this office action that: "Judge shows all the features of these claims as described in Paragraph 4 above except (a) tracking the number of connection/disconnection and removal of the interposed sacrificial connector after certain number of connection/disconnection, (b) breaking off a contact to reduce the number of contacts, (c) using only one side of the sacrificial connector for multiple connection/disconnection, and (d) a locking system to restrict the use of only once side of the sacrificial connector for multiple connection/disconnection. Such features are common knowledge, well known and widely used in the art of electrical connectors. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the instant invention to provide these features to the Judge's wire harness because this would provide a means of record keeping and a means to restrict access to the use of one side of the sacrificial connection as is well known and involves only routine skill in the art."

However, as the Examiner is aware, mere examiner statements of "well known," or "obvious" *without citation to my reference*, requires supporting examiner evidence such as an affidavit to be properly the basis of a rejection. MPEP §2144.03.

Due to the above claim cancellations, the only remaining claim 36 has several of those limitations for which no references have been cited, and should therefore be allowable.

Other rejections in the second office action (based on §112) are respectfully noted to be mere claim language misunderstandings. Apparently in claim 32 line 31, claim 35 line 5, claim 36 line 5, and claim 37 line 31, in the claim expression "said sacrificial connector being multiply disconnectable in multiple cycles from said first electrical connector" the appropriate word "multiply" [pronounced "mul-ti-

plee" in that contextual use as an adjective] is objected to. This objection is respectfully traversed. However, since removing "multiply" will have no effect on any claim if removed by an examiner's amendment in the remaining claim 36, the examiner is authorized do so, or upon request, the undersigned will do so.

Likewise, the second office action argues that "the independent claim 37 recites an additional interposed sacrificial connector." However, nowhere in any claim is more than one "sacrificial connector" indicated or required. The examiner must have been referring to the Claim 37 lines 14-17 claim paragraph "said wiring harness having an additional interposed sacrificial electrical connector that is electrically connecting between said first and second electrical connectors of said wiring harness and physically separating said first and second electrical connectors from one another." However there is no other preceeding, antecedent or other "sacrificial connector" in any claim. It is clear in context that "additional" in this phrase is modifying "connector" not "sacrificial", and furthermore all further claim references are clearly to "said" sacrificial connector. However, this objection is now moot anyway in view of the present claim cancellations.

No additional fee is believed to be required for this amendment. However, the undersigned Xerox Corporation attorney hereby authorizes the charging of any necessary fees, other than the issue fee, to Xerox Corporation Deposit Account No. 24-0025. This also constitutes a request for any needed extension of time and authorization to charge all fees therefor to Xerox Corporation Deposit Account No. 24-0025.

A telephone interview is respectfully requested at the number listed below if the Examiner has any remaining questions or issues to address after this paper. The undersigned will be happy to discuss any further Examiner-proposed amendments as may be appropriate.

Respectfully submitted,



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